PFLAG
Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

P.O. Box 10076
Colorado Springs, CO 80932
Hotline: (719) 575-8658

Keeping Families Strong **September, 2007**

Urban Peak Counselor Featured at September PFLAG Meeting

Natalie Paynter, a case manager at the Urban Peak center for homeless youth who works with the GLBTIQ youth housed at Urban Peak, will talk about the problems faced by these young people at the September PFLAG meeting. She will invite some of the youth living at the center to come to the meeting as well.

Urban Peak is an independent non-profit organization. Its clients, 20% to 25% of whom identify as GLBTIQ, are between the ages of 15 and 21 years old.

URBAN PEAK
COLORADO SPRINGS
Real life. Real change.

Urban Peak in Colorado Springs started in December 2000, upstairs at the Marian House Soup Kitchen, as a drop-in center for homeless teens two afternoons a week. Showers, food, clothing and support were offered. Volunteer case managers walked the streets to reach teens in need of help.

In December 2004 Urban Peak completed renovation of an old downtown warehouse into a shelter and transitional home for homeless youth. On a brief tour of the facility this week, your newsletter editor discovered a light, airy building with two large dorm rooms with bunk beds, a sizeable kitchen, a cozy

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SEPTEMBER PFLAG CHAPTER MEETING

Tuesday
September 18, 2007

7:00 P.M.

Program:

"Urban Peak"

Guest Speaker:
Victoria Paynter
Case Manager for GLBTIQ Homeless Youth

Small Group Discussion

Coffee and Dessert

The Dwelling Place
508 North Tejon Street
Everyone is welcome.

PFLAG Sponsors Closing Film at Lavender Film Festival

PFLAG is sponsoring *Nina's Heavenly Delights*, the final film in the Lavender Film Festival, to be held September 14-15-16 at the beautiful Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center.

"Iron Chef" meets lesbian love in this romantic comedy. Closeted Nina returns home to Glasgow for her father's funeral only to discover the family restaurant is in jeopardy. Nina is determined to save the restaurant by winning the curry cook-off sponsored by a local Indian television station. With musical numbers, benign ghosts and beautiful leading ladies, this film is sure to delight anyone who likes delicious food with a side of romance and family reconciliation.

Festival Passes may be purchased at the FAC box office for $75 or at Spice of Life in Manitou, The Underground downtown or the Pride Center, 2508 E. Bijou, for $60.

Don't miss the opening night celebration, with a short film on gay tango dancing, followed by the American comedy *Out at the Wedding*. For more info: www.pplff.org.

Colorado Springs PFLAG Member Leads Colorado PFLAG Coalition

Congratulations to Marilyn Davis of our chapter, who was elected this summer as the new Chairperson of the Colorado Coalition of PFLAG Chapters. The Coalition will hold its fall quarterly meeting, featuring leadership and chapter development, on Saturday, September 15th in Fort Collins.

Marilyn and her partner have been representing our chapter at coalition meetings for several years. They always welcome anyone who would like to join them. Contact Marilyn at 310-6211.

This newsletter is published by the Colorado Springs Chapter of PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays).

PFLAG Mission Statement:

PFLAG promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered (GLBT) persons, their families and friends through:

√ **support**, to cope with an adverse society,
√ **education**, to enlighten an ill-informed public, and
√ **advocacy**, to end discrimination and secure equal civil rights.

PFLAG provides an opportunity for dialogue about sexual orientation and gender identity, and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity.

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PFLAG IS FOR EVERYONE

If you've never been to one of our meetings, we feel you will find it rewarding and may find it leads to a new sense of family.

Membership is not required.
All are welcome.

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To join the chapter and receive the newsletter regularly, complete and mail the membership form on page four. To receive complimentary copies of the newsletter, please call PFLAG at 575-8658.

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PFLAG National Office website:
www.pflag.org

Thank You!

To Tom and Charlotte Saponas and the Saponas Family Foundation for a very generous gift to Colorado Springs PFLAG.

Your support encourages and cheers all of us and helps us to: provide good meetings and programs; publish the newsletter; purchase and distribute literature; participate in PrideFest and the Colorado coalition of PFLAG chapters; and send a delegate to the PFLAG national conference.

Urban Peak (cont.)

area for watching TV, and a large outdoor recreation space lit up by a colorful wall mural painted by the youth which symbolizes the journey from sadness and despair to a springing hope for the future. Up to twenty youth (10 boys and 10 girls) can be housed at the facility at one time. Computers, recreation, art, cooking, multiple support groups and a library are available onsite.

Urban Peak benefits from a wide range of community volunteers. A local psychiatrist makes regular visits, Planned Parenthood offers education on safe sex, the El Paso County Health Department provides drug and alcohol abuse counseling and a Better Business Bureau volunteer coaches the youth about finances and the workplace.

Youth who are accepted as residents at Urban Peak must commit to joining the community, including chores and cooking. They must work with a case manager to set personal goals and must actively seek to return to education or employment.

While there is no limit on the time a youth can stay in the transitional housing, the average stay is about 4 1/2 months. Since the residence building was opened in December 2004, Executive Director John McIwee estimates that it has served 375-400 youth. Becoming homeless is a sad fact of life and a major life crisis for a significant number of our GLBTIQ youth.

Letter from the Pride Center - A Call for Support

August 28, 2007

Dear Friends,

Every day your Pride Center is advocating for LGBT equality,

—On August 3, 2007, Senate Bill 25 provided equal employment protection for LGBT people in Colorado, and House Bill 1330 provided for LGBT second-parent adoption. Your Pride Center **lobbied for the passage of these bills** at the State Capitol.

—This summer Colorado Springs own Grace Church and St. Stephens Parish, led by Rector Donald Armstrong, filed a formal complaint with city officials to **have our PrideFest Parade moved or shut down.** This is the group that earlier this year disaffiliated from the Episcopal Church of America to join forces with a missionary initiative of the Anglican Church of Nigeria — *a church that advocates for the imprisonment an death of LGBT people.* Your Pride Center refused to let this group control our community's most valuable annual unity and activist event, and ultimately won the day.

— This year, City Council sponsored the Diversity Forum's cultural fair with a caveat issued by some council members calling for LGBT groups to stifle promotion of "social issues". Your Pride Center **advocated for full LGBT equality— including LGBT marriage**—at this year's Diversity Fair.

But our work is far from over in Colorado Springs, and order to continue to defend and advance our rights as LGT individuals and families, **we need your support!**

During the month of September, our goal is to raise $15,000, so that we may continue advancing civil and social equality for LGBT individuals and families in Colorado Springs. If everyone who receives this letter makes a gift of

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Seven Straight Nights for Equal Rights: Straight Allies Across America to Demand Equality for LGBT Families

Soulforce and Atticus Circle are pleased to introduce **Seven Straight Nights for Equal Rights**, a national event that will provide straight Americans with opportunities to do justice and motivate new allies to stand up and be counted for equal rights.

Tens of thousands of heterosexual people believe in equality for LGBT Americans. Many people struggle to find meaningful ways to get involved in the peaceful pursuit of LGBT equality. They want to do more than write their elected officials or simply vote against a hateful measure. These allies have been without a venue for *direct activism* to collectively and visibly demonstrate their commitment to equality for their gay friends, family members, coworkers and neighbors. Until now.

Seven Straight Nights will consist of a coordinated campaign of overnight vigils led by straight allies. It will sweep across key capital cities throughout the nation during the week of October 7-13, 2007, gaining momentum in the national media as more states participate in the event. Each vigil will be coordinated by a family, individual or group (such as a church or student organization) who become the face of Seven Straight Nights in their state.

See www.sevenstraightnights.org for more information.

Out Loud Tunes Up for Fall Concerts

Mark your calendar—Out Loud, the wonderful Colorado Springs men's chorus, is gearing up for its fall concert, to be presented on November 16-17-18, 2007. Because the last two concerts have sold out, and the fire marshal doesn't approve of a standing room audience at First Congregational Church, Out Loud will present three performances this time.

Our PFLAG chapter members regularly usher at the Out Loud concerts. We'll need more people because of the extra concert, so please call Patti Barton and get your name on the list now! Her number is 528-6348.

Exceptional Film Coming To Starz Center, Denver

For the Bible Tells Me So, a hit film at the Sundance Film Festival that has won numerous awards since its release earlier this year, will be shown in Denver at the Starz Film Center October 19-25.

Featured are former House Majority Leader Dick Gephart and his family, gay Episcopal Bishop Gene Robinson, Bishop Desmond Tutu, and Soulforce leader Mel White. See www.forthebibletellsmeso.org and our next newsletter for more information on this great film. Would you like to go to Denver to see it as a group? Call Karen at 634-4433.

Pride Center Calls for Support (cont)

(Continued from page 2)

$15.00 or more, your Pride Center can continue to advocate for LGBT issues with city council and city administrators, employers, schools, media and more. Please renew, revitalize and reinvigorate your commitment to achieving civil and social equality for all people today!

Send Donations sent to: Pride Center at 2508 East Bijou, Colo. Springs, CO 80909, or donate online at www.YourPrideCenter.org.

PFLAG Supports Food Pantry at Inside/ Out Youth Services

Thank you to everyone who brought non-perishable food items to the august PFLAG meeting for delivery to Inside/Out youth Services.

Please continue to bring items for the Inside/Out pantry to our meetings as an ongoing PFLAG outreach to this very important organization that supports LGBTIQ youth in the Pikes Peak region.

Update: Rainbow Cook Fest—September 22

Do we have one or two PFLAG cooks who can team up and enter the Rainbow Cook Fest on September 22? The sponsors will be delighted.

The event, which takes place from 6-9 p.m. at the Gay and Lesbian Fund, is a GLBT community coming together event featuring samples of food prepared by amateur cooks in categories titled appetizers, entrees, desserts and "other". Complimentary beer, wine and soda will be served. The door fee is $10, with all money going to the winning cook's designated charity.

Cooks cook at home, and must bring enough food to the event to provide 100 servings of approximately one ounce each. The registration deadline is September 7th. Stop by the Gay and Lesbian Fund at 315 East Costilla to pick up a registration form and represent PFLAG!

If you prefer to eat... do mark your calendar and come to the event.

Outreach to Schools

PFLAG will be contacting local junior high and high school counselors this fall to offer literature and support to parents and GLBTIQ teens. Can you help with this project? Call Elaine Myers at 598-7265 or the PFLAG hotline: 575-8658

BULLETIN BOARD

September 9 — S-CAP Aids Walk 9:00—12:00 noon—Denver's Cheeseman Park. S-CAP (Southern Colorado Aids Project, located in Colorado Springs) is a partner agency in the 20th Annual 5K AIDS Walk Colorado and 2nd Annual AIDS Run, which will raise much needed funds for people living with HIV/AIDS and for HIV prevention in Colorado. New treatments are now available that were unheard of ten years ago. These have decreased the number of AIDS-related deaths. Unfortunately, more people are being infected with the virus every day.

S-CAP will receive the majority of funds it raises through participation of our local supporters. Sign up today, and start raising money for our team! The AIDS Walk website and registration site is www.aidswalkcolorado.org. Make sure to *JOIN* a team when you are registering — which of course will be the Southern Colorado AIDS Project. Contact: Angela Michaels or Bill Scharton at S-CAP 578-9092.

September 14-16—Lavender Film Festival, Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center (see p. 1)

September 22—Rainbow Cook Fest, 6-9 p.m., Gay and Lesbian Center 315 East Costilla Street (see p. 3).

October 7-13—7 Straight Nights for Equal Rights (p.3)

October 11-14—PFLAG National Convention, Washington D.C. More information at www.pflag.org

October 19-25 — Film: For the Bible Tells Me So Starz Center, Denver (see p. 3).

November 16-17-18 — Out Loud Colorado Springs Men's Chorus—Fall Concerts (see p.3).

GOOD NEWS AND NOTES

Gay USA—Mondays, 11 p.m. Cox Channel 23

Gay USA is an informative and enjoyable weekly news wrap-up that is now being broadcast on Cox channel 23 at 11 p.m. every Monday.

Hosted by Andy Humm and Ann Northrup, the show reports news of the previous week, including court cases, media, international news, health news, marriage news and more. Often they interview someone we're glad to know about.

Frances Mendenhall, who puts this program on Cox, says she would watch it even if she were not interested in the issues, because it's so much fun. The two hosts are clearly old friends who occasionally enjoy challenging their co-host's logic, fairness, memory, or golfing abilities. Humm and Northrup can be counted on to bring insights from decades of involvement in LGBT issues into their commentary.

Gallup's Annual Values and Beliefs Survey

Of respondents to Gallup's annual Values and Beliefs Survey, conducted in May, 2007:

59% think homosexual relations between consenting adults should be legal (37% think not).

46% think marriages between same-sex couples should be recognized by the law as valid — the highest in 7 polls dating back to 1996 (53% think not).

47% believe homosexual relations are morally acceptable — the highest in 7 polls dating back to 1996 (49% believe not).

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL—September is PFLAG membership renewal month. Please let us hear from you — Soon!

Support Colorado Springs PFLAG—Become a Member

You can join at any time of the year. The current membership year extends from October 1, 2007 to September 30, 2008.

Name(s) of Member(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ **Zip Code:** _____

Home Phone: _____ **Work Phone:** _____

E-mail _____

____New member ____Renewing member

____ Regular Membership	$ 30
____ Supporting Member—Silver	40
____ Supporting Member—Gold	60
____ Supporting Member—Platinum	100

Amount Enclosed $_____

Each year our chapter must contribute $15.00 for each paid membership to the PFLAG national office to support its mission.

Make checks payable to Colorado Springs PFLAG and mail to P.O. Box 10076, Colorado Springs, CO 80932. Membership fees and contributions are tax deductible. All information will remain confidential. PFLAG is a 501(C) 3 nonprofit organization.